

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-08

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, PORG, MASS, KS, KN, CH, YO, UK
SUBJ: DEBRIEFING BY UK FCO UNDERSECRETARY HUGH CORTAZZI

1. HUGH CORTAZZI, AN OLD FRIEND, CALLED ON ME MAY 6. I BROUGHT HIM UP TO DATE ON KOREAN SITUATION PRIOR TO HIS MEETING WITH FONMIN PARK TONG JIN. CORTAZZI ALSO DEBRIEFED ME AT SOME LENGTH ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO CHINA WITH UK MILITARY DELEGATION.

2. WITH RESPECT TO KOREA, CORTAZZI STATED UK REMAINED FIRM IN ITS DECISION NOT TO OPEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. BUT HE EXPRESSED CONCERN REGARDING POSSIBILITY US MIGHT OPEN PRIVATE BILATERAL TALKS WITH NORTH KOREA WHICH WOULD EMBARRASS LABOR GOVERNMENT. I GAVE HIM FIRM RE-ASSURANCES ON THIS POINT. CORTAZZI ALSO MENTIONED UK HAS BEEN IMPRESSED BY INCREASED ROKG LIBERALIZATION ON POLITICAL FRONT, BUT INTENDED TO REMIND FONMIN HUMAN RIGHTS WAS STILL TOUCHY POINT IN UK. HE CONFIRMED LATER THAT HE HAD DONE SO AND HAD DRAWN NO REACTION FROM FONMIN PARK.

3. I ALSO WENT OVER THE GROUND WITH CORTAZZI ON TITO'S
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TRIPARTITE PROPOSAL, INCLUDING NEGATIVE NOISES WE ARE RECEIVING FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY. CORTAZZI OFFERED TO URGE FONMIN TO BE MORE POSITIVE AND MAINTAIN FLEXIBLE POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS, AS LONG AS ROKG INCLUDED. WHEN HE DID SO WITH FONMIN, FONMIN REVERTED TO HIS PAST SUSPICIONS ABOUT TRIPARTITE PROPOSAL, ALTHOUGH STATING THAT PROPOSAL STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION AND NOT

REJECTED BY ROKG. FONMIN, CORTAZZI TOLD ME AFTER MEETING, ALSO DWELT EXTENSIVELY ON GRIEVANCES AGAINST US, PARTICULARLY CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM OF KOREA. (COMMENT: IN BOTH RESPECTS, I SUSPECT THAT FONMIN PARK IS SOMEWHAT OUT OF STEP WITH MORE POSITIVE MOOD EMERGING IN KOREA. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE OF TOP BLUE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISERS LAST WEEK RESPONDED QUITE POSITIVELY ON THE TRIPARTITE PROPOSAL AND WAS OPENLY CRITICAL OF POSITION TAKEN BY FONMIN.)

4. CORTAZZI DEBRIEFING ON CHINA TRIP WAS REASONABLE FULSOME. SINE HE SAID THAT SIMILAR GROUND IS BEING COVERED IN PEKING AND WASHINGTON, I WILL NOT REITERATE POINTS HE MADE FOR MOST PART. CORTAZZI EMPHASIZED VERY POSITIVE IMPRESSION OF CHAIRMAN HUA, WHOM HE FOUND QUITE IMPRESSIVE, IN COMMAND OF HIS SUBJECT, PARTICULARLY IN COMPARISON TO TWO YEARS AGO. WITH RESPECT TO KOREA, VERY LITTLE WAS SAID BY CHINESE EXCEPT FOR ONE COMMENT BY DEFENSE MINISTER YEH, WHO SAID THAT KOREAN SITUATION WILL NOT CHANGE FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE. I WAS ALSO STRUCK BY CHINESE COMMENT ON JAPAN WHICH EXPRESSED LACK OF CONCERN EVEN IF JAPANESE GO NUCLEAR.

5. CORTAZZI INDICATED THAT UK AIR MARSHAL VISIT TO PEKING WOULD PROBABLY LEAD TO INCREASED UK INTEREST IN TRANSFER OF MILITARY TECHNOLOGY TO PRC, WHICH UK PLANNED TO DISCUSS WITH WASHINGTON. HE ASKED ME ABOUT ROKG
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REACTION AND I SAID THAT LOCAL KOREAN REACTION WOULD PROBABLY DEPEND PRIMARILY ON THEIR ASSESSMENT AS TO POTENTIAL FOR TRANSFER OF NEWER MILITARY TECHNOLOGY RECEIVED FROM ABROAD TO NORTH KOREA.
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